

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1           1.     A method performed at a data distribution device, the method comprising:  
2                 determining whether a message indicating that data conveyance rules are to be modified  
3     has been received;  
4                 if the message has been received, identifying a rule template associated with the data  
5     conveyance rules, the identified rule template comprising at least one parameter;  
6                 sending a message specifying a user interface corresponding to the rule template and the  
7     parameter;  
8                 determining whether a message comprising a specification of the parameter has been  
9     received; and  
10                if the message has been received, creating a rule by binding the rule template with the  
11     specified parameter.

1           2.     The method of claim 1, wherein the user interface comprises a natural language  
2     description of a business function of a data conveyance rule created with the rule template.

1           3.     The method of claim 1, wherein the user interface comprises a natural language  
2     description of the parameters for the rule template.

1           4.     The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2     identifying a set of rule templates associated with the data conveyance rules to be

3 modified;  
4 sending a message specifying a user interface corresponding to the set of rule templates;  
5 and  
6 determining whether a message indicating selection of one of the templates in the set  
7 has been received.

1 5. The method of claim 1, further comprising translating the rule into a rule engine  
2 format.

1 6. The method of claim 5, wherein the rule engine format comprises Jrules.

1 7. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2 determining whether a message comprising a subscription request has been received;  
3 if a subscription request has been received, identifying data conveyance rules associated  
4 with the subscription request; and  
5 sending data in accordance with the identified rules.

1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the identified rules are associated with a user of  
2 a data output device.

1 9. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2 associating one of the data conveyance rules with a rule template;

- 3 parsing the rule to identify specifications for parameters of the template; and
- 4 sending a message specifying a user interface corresponding to the associated template,
- 5 the identified parameters, and the identified specifications.

1           10.    A system comprising:  
2           a data distribution device comprising:  
3                memory operable to store:  
4                    a repository comprising data conveyance rules and rule templates  
5 associated with the data conveyance rules, and  
6                    a rule editor for modifying the data conveyance rules and the rule  
7 templates; and  
8                a processor operable to:  
9                    determine whether a message indicating that a set of the data conveyance  
10 rules is to be modified has been received,  
11                   if the message has been received, identify a rule template associated with  
12 the set, the identified rule template comprising at least one parameter,  
13                   generate a message specifying a user interface corresponding to the  
14 template and the parameter,  
15                   determine whether a message comprising a specification of the  
16 parameter has been received, and  
17                   if the message has been received, create a rule by binding the rule  
18 template with the specified parameter.

1           11.    The system of claim 10, wherein the processor is further operable to:  
2           identify a set of rule templates associated with the set of data conveyance rules to be  
3 modified;

4 generate a message specifying a user interface corresponding to the set of rule  
5 templates; and  
6 determine whether a message indicating selection of one of the templates in the set has  
7 been received.

1 12. The system of claim 10, wherein:

2 the memory is further operable to store a rule translator; and  
3 the processor is further operable to translate the rule into a rule engine format.

1 13. The system of claim 10, wherein:

2 the memory is further operable to store a rule engine; and  
3 the processor is further operable to:

4 determine whether a message comprising a subscription request has been  
5 received,

6 if a subscription request has been received, identify data conveyance rules  
7 associated with the subscription request, and

8 send data in accordance with the identified rules.

1 14. The system of claim 10, wherein the processor is further operable to:

2 associate one of the data conveyance rules with a rule template;

3 parse the rule to identify specifications for parameters of the template; and

4 generate a message specifying a user interface corresponding to the associated template,

5 the identified parameters, and the identified specifications.

1           15.    An article comprising a machine-readable medium storing instructions operable  
2   to cause one or more machines to perform operations comprising:  
3           determining whether a message indicating that data conveyance rules are to be modified  
4   has been received at a data distribution device;  
5           if the message has been received, identifying a rule template associated with the data  
6   conveyance rules, the identified rule template comprising at least one parameter;  
7           generating a message specifying a user interface corresponding to the rule template and  
8   the parameter;  
9           determining whether a message comprising a specification of the parameter has been  
10   received; and  
11          if the message has been received, creating a rule by binding the rule template with the  
12   specified parameter.

1           16.    The article of claim 15, wherein the instructions are further operable to cause  
2   one or more machines to perform operations comprising:  
3           identifying a set of rule templates associated with the data conveyance rules to be  
4   modified;  
5           generating a message specifying a user interface corresponding to the set of rule  
6   templates; and  
7           determining whether a message indicating selection of one of the templates in the set  
8   has been received.

1           17.     The article of claim 15, wherein the instructions are further operable to cause  
2     one or more machines to perform operations comprising translating the rule into a rule engine  
3     format.

1           18.     The article of claim 15, wherein the instructions are further operable to cause  
2     one or more machines to perform operations comprising:  
3                 determining whether a message comprising a subscription request has been received;  
4                 if a subscription request has been received, identifying data conveyance rules associated  
5     with the subscription request; and  
6                 sending data in accordance with the identified rules.

1           19.     The article of claim 15, wherein the instructions are further operable to cause  
2     one or more machines to perform operations comprising:  
3                 associating one of the data conveyance rules with a rule template;  
4                 parsing the rule to identify specifications for parameters of the template; and  
5                 generating a message specifying a user interface corresponding to the associated  
6     template, the identified parameters, and the identified specifications.



1           20.     A method performed at a data output device, the method comprising:  
2                 determining whether a command indicating that data conveyance rules are to be  
3     modified has been received;  
4                 if the command has been received, sending a message indicating that data conveyance  
5     rules are to be modified;  
6                 determining if a message specifying a user interface corresponding to a rule template  
7     and a parameter has been received;  
8                 if the message has been received, generating the user interface;  
9                 determining whether a command indicating specification of the parameter has been  
10    received; and  
11                 if the command has been received, sending a message comprising a specification of the  
12    parameter.

1           21.     The method of claim 20, wherein the user interface comprises a natural  
2     language description of a business function of a data conveyance rule created with the rule  
3     template.

1           22.     The method of claim 20, wherein the user interface comprises a natural  
2     language description of the parameter for the rule template.

1           23.     The method of claim 20, further comprising:  
2                 determining whether a message specifying a user interface corresponding to a set of rule

3 templates has been received;  
4 if the message has been received, generating the user interface;  
5 determining whether a command indicating that one of the templates in the set has been  
6 selected has been received; and  
7 if the command has been received, sending a message indicating selection of one of the  
8 templates in the set.

1 24. The method of claim 20, wherein the rule template comprises a rule template for  
2 one of the data conveyance rules.

1           25.    A system comprising:

2           a data output device comprising:

3                   a user input device operable to receive a user command;

4                   a display device operable to present a user interface; and

5                   a processor operable to:

6                           determine whether a command indicating that data conveyance rules are  
7   to be modified has been received,

8                           if the command has been received, generate a message indicating that  
9   data conveyance rules are to be modified,

10                          determine if a message specifying a user interface corresponding to a  
11  rule template and a parameter has been received,

12                          if the message has been received, generate the user interface,

13                          determine whether a command indicating specification of the parameter  
14   has been received, and

15                          if the command has been received, generate a message comprising a  
16  specification of the parameter.

1           26.    The system of claim 25, wherein the processor is further operable to:

2           determine whether a message specifying a user interface corresponding to a set of rule  
3  templates has been received;

4           if the message has been received, generate the user interface;

5           determine whether a command indicating that one of the templates in the set has been

- 6      selected has been received; and
- 7              if the command has been received, generating a message indicating selection of one of
- 8      the templates in the set.

1           27.    An article comprising a machine-readable medium storing instructions operable  
2   to cause one or more machines to perform operations comprising:  
3           determining whether a command indicating that data conveyance rules are to be  
4   modified has been received at a data output device;  
5           if the command has been received, generating a message indicating that data  
6   conveyance rules are to be modified;  
7           determining if a message specifying a user interface corresponding to a rule template  
8   and a parameter has been received;  
9           if the message has been received, generating the user interface;  
10          determining whether a command indicating specification of the parameter has been  
11   received; and  
12          if the command has been received, generating a message comprising a specification of  
13   the parameter.

1           28.    The article of claim 27, wherein the instructions are further operable to cause  
2   one or more machines to perform operations comprising:  
3           determining whether a message specifying a user interface corresponding to a set of  
4   rule templates has been received;  
5           if the message has been received, generating the user interface;  
6           determining whether a command indicating that one of the templates in the set has been  
7   selected has been received; and  
8           if the command has been received, generating a message indicating selection of one of

9 the templates in the set.

1           29.    A system comprising:

2           a data output device operable to:

3                   determine whether a command indicating that data conveyance rules are to be  
4   modified has been received,

5                   if the command has been received, send a message indicating that data  
6   conveyance rules are to be modified,

7                   determine if a message specifying a user interface corresponding to a set of rule  
8   templates has been received, the user interface comprising natural language descriptions of  
9   business functions of data conveyance rules created with the templates,

10                  if the message has been received, generate the user interface,

11                  determine whether a command indicating that one of the templates in the set has  
12   been selected has been received,

13                  if the command has been received, send a message indicating selection of one of  
14   the templates in the set,

15                  determine if a message specifying a user interface corresponding to the selected  
16   rule template and a parameter of the selected rule template has been received, the user interface  
17   comprising a natural language description of the parameter,

18                  if the message has been received, generate the user interface,

19                  determine whether a command indicating specification of the parameter has  
20   been received, and

21                  if the command has been received, send a message comprising a specification of  
22   the parameter; and

23           a data distribution device operable to:

24                 determine whether the message indicating that data conveyance rules are to be

25   modified has been received,

26                 if the message has been received, identify a set of rule templates associated with

27   the data conveyance rules to be modified,

28                 send the message specifying a user interface corresponding to a set of rule

29   templates,

30                 determine whether the message indicating selection of one of the templates in

31   the set has been received,

32                 identify a parameter for the selected template,

33                 send the message specifying a user interface corresponding to the selected rule

34   template and a parameter of the selected rule template,

35                 determine whether the message comprising a specification of the parameter has

36   been received,

37                 if the message has been received, create a rule by binding the rule template with

38   the specified parameter,

39                 translate the rule into a rule engine format,

40                 determine whether a message comprising a subscription request has been

41   received,

42                 if a subscription request has been received, identify data conveyance rules

43   associated with the subscription request, and

44                 send data in accordance with the identified rules.